



## WEST COVINA YOUTH PONY BASEBALL

### 2026 MUSTANG DIVISION GROUND RULES

**ORDER OF RULES: WCYPB Ground Rules and League By-Laws, PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations, Official Rules of Major League Baseball**

**MUST SLIDE RULE:** When a fielder is making a play at any base, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. A fielder is considered to be making a play when he has the ball in his possession. **PENALTY:** Runner is declared out and may also be ejected depending on the severity of the contact **UMPIRES JUDGMENT.**

1. Managers and Coaches must stay in the dugout area. The dugout area will consist of the area five (5) feet in front of the dugout, running the entire length of the dugout. Only the Managers and 2 coaches will be allowed on the field at any one time. The gate to the dugout must be closed during play.

2. Game Time: **1 hour and 50 Minutes or no new inning after.** To keep the pace of play moving, coaches will have lineups prepared (both offense and defense) so play is not held up when making changes from inning to inning. **Managers will teach/coach batters on deck to safely retrieve passed balls.** Coaches must all work to keep the momentum of the games going. **SLOW PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

3. If a game is called for any reason, it shall be a complete game if four (4) innings have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in three innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed innings.

4. If a game is called for any reason before it is a complete game, or when the score is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be resumed from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by League Officials.

**5. Both teams brush** up mound and batter's box. **Both teams** are responsible for cleaning up all the trash in the dugout area and in the spectator stands. **Each team** is responsible for emptying the trash cans after the game.

6. The Official Scorebook will be the authority on innings played and pitch count. **Home Team** is responsible for the scorebook and scoreboard. **Penalty for not keeping scorebook and pitch count: Manager suspended for next game.** It is the responsibility of the Managers to be sure all substitutes are in the Official Scorebook.

7. All teams will bat their entire roster. Nine (9) players will play on the field. **All players must play in every game and play every other inning.** If it is discovered that a player has not played in the required innings, he/she will play the entire next game they attend for each infraction of this rule. Managers found in violation of this rule will be automatically subject to the following disciplinary actions:

**First Offense: Umpire 2 Shetland games and serve a 1 game suspension Second Offense: Umpire 4 Shetland games and serve a 2 game suspension.**

**\*\*Any Manager or Coach who receives a Second Offense within the same season in any division, will automatically forfeit their right to Manage or Coach ANY All- Star Team.\*\***

8. Late arrivals ("subs") will be placed at the bottom of the line-up. Late arrivals ("subs") must enter the game by the completion of the 3rd inning. If the third inning has been completed, the player cannot enter the game.

9. The Player Agent must be notified of all benching prior to the start of the game. Managers may bench a player for disciplinary action only once. The Manager must review any disciplinary problems with the Board of Directors before he can bench that player again. No player may be benched during playoffs.

10. Each team is allowed one (1) offensive timeout per inning, injury time outs are excluded. If a Manager or Coach goes onto the playing field to speak to any player or players more than once in a half inning while the same player is pitching, a pitching change shall be made. The only exceptions to this rule shall be in the case of injury, or if time is called by the opposing team or by an umpire.

11. To prevent a forfeit, a minimum of 9 players must be on the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time. The game must start and end with 9 players. To accomplish this, a maximum of 2 players may be added from other teams from **within the Division**. These additional players must bat in the last position in the line-up and must play in the outfield. If a member of the team shows up later, the substitute will be removed from the game IMMEDIATELY. He must bat in the highest available batting spot used by the substitute.

**No substitutes may be used more than once. No substitutes may be used during the playoffs. Players must play one more than half of a season's games in order to play during playoffs or to be eligible for All Star selection.**

12. On a straight steal from third, the batter must not take a full swing at the ball. If the batter does take a full swing, both the batter and the runner are out.

13. Metal cleats are NOT permitted.

14. Infield fly rule is in effect.

15. **MERCY RULE:** If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after 3 1/2 or 4 innings have been played, the game is deemed complete. The game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.

16. **USA Bat rules apply.** Use of non USA stamped bat, will result in batter called out. 2¼ and 2 5/8 barrels are legal in all divisions. Use of wood is legal as well, except bamboo wood. The manager must bring attention to an Umpire or Board Member of any use of an illegal bat before the next pitch after use of the bat. Any runner will return to the previously occupied base. Bat will be confiscated and returned at the completion of the game.

17. Pitching: The pitching mound will be set at a distance of 46 feet. The bases will be at a distance of 70 feet.

#### PITCH SMART GUIDELINES FOR MUSTANG DIVISION

		REQUIRED REST DAYS (AFTER # OF PITCHES)					
Age Range	Daily Max	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

\*No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for 3 (three consecutive days, regardless of pitch count. \*

A. Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish to the batter before being removed.

B. Once the umpire-in-chief signals “play” to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and their pitch count begins at that point.

C. **Walks: Intentional walks:** Pitchers do not have to pitch the ball. Runner takes first base, the ball is dead. **Pitched walks:** Runner takes first, ball is live.

D. **Balks** in effect.

**\*\*Pitcher in violation of Pitching Rules. PENALTY: Upon appeal by the opposing Manager, the violating Pitcher and Manager will be removed (ejected) immediately from the game. Both the Player and the Manager will also be suspended for their next scheduled game. \*\***

18. Any Manager or Coach, ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from their next game. Managers and Coaches that have been suspended will not be allowed around the playing field from 1 hour before scheduled game time until the end of the game and will not be permitted any closer to the field than the center field fence. Failure to comply with this rule will result in additional disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. Additionally, any Manager or Coach removed from the game by the umpire or causing forfeit will be automatically subject to the following disciplinary actions which must be completed prior to coaching their next game:

**First Offense: Umpire 2 Shetland games and serve a 1 game suspension; Second Offense: Umpire 4 Shetland games and serve a 2 game suspension.**

**\*\*Any Manager or Coach who receives a Second Offense within the same season in any division will automatically forfeit their right to Manage or Coach ANY All- Star Team.\*\***

19. Any player ejected from a game will be removed from that game and will also be suspended from their next scheduled game and are confined to the dugout.

20. The Division Champion will be decided by a tournament at the end of the regular season. All teams will participate in this tournament. Positions will be decided by the order of finish at the end of the regular season. The selection of All Star Managers will be in the order of standings from the League's Tournament finish. No manager or coach can turn their team over to another person.

21. Managers and Coaches will not be permitted to manage or coach multiple All Star teams.

**\*\*He/she can only appear on only one (1) post-season tournament affidavit. \*\***

22. The returning Manager will have the first option to take the same team the following year. If the Manager declines, then the "Coach's Option" will have a second option to fill the role as returning Manager. If the Coach's option also declines, no further priority will be given, and the team will be declared equally open for consideration to any requesting that team. All team Managers are subject to Board approval annually.